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Date: 19 January 2004

Coversheet +30Page(s)

RECIPIENT:

1. USPTO (Group Art Unit 2837)

cc: Examiner Wachsman

703-746-4445

FACSIMILE NUMBER

703-872-9306

5-4445

Regarding:

USSN 10/606,009

Attorney Docket No. 1031.16081-CON

Comments:

Attached is a Preliminary Amendment, per our discussion

From:

Daniel D. Ryan, Reg. No. 29,243

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Customer No. 26308

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Blumenthal et al.

Attorney Docket No.: 1031.16081-CON

Serial No.: 10/606,009

Examiner: Wachsman

Filed: 25 June 2003

Group Art Unit: 2857

For:

Systems and Methods for Controlling the Activity of Carbon in Heat Treating Atmospheres

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 RECEIVED CENTRAL FAX CENTER

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL

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Transmitted herewith is an amendment for this application.

STATUS

Applicant is

[x] a small entity

[] other than a small entity.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION VIA TELECOPIER

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Patent

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Applicant:

Blumenthal et al.

Attorney Docket No. 1031.16081-CON

Serial No.:

10/606,009

Examiner: Wachsman

Filed:

25 June 2003

Group Art Unit: 2857

Title:

Systems and Methods for Controlling the Activity of Carbon in Heat Treating

Atmospheres

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT A

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Please amend the application prior to examining the case, as follows: